FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 AUGUST 1983

Lebanon

Describing the mission of U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane as a "conspiracy," Syrian Culture Minister Najah al-'Attar claimed that Syria has "aborted" McFarlane's tour, Radio Monte Carlo announced. Monitored Syrian sources have not been observed to report this statement.

At a Beirut news conference reported by the Voice of Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens reaffirmed Israel's committment to leave Lebanon 8-12 weeks after implementation of the joint agreement provided "the other provisions of this agreement are implemented." Allegations that Israel plans to partition or divide Lebanon are "baseless," the defense minister maintained. Arens accused Syria of obstructing the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, the radio added.

The government is "responsible" for the delay in reopening Beirut airport after the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) had pledged not to shell the airport if used exclusively for civilian traffic, PSP leader Walid Junblatt asserted in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Speaking in Amman on 15 August, Junblatt expressed the hope that the delay is not a government attempt to sway public opinion against the Druze, the radio related. However, Public Works Minister Pierre Khuri announced after a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus that a decision had been made "in principle" to reopen the airport on 16 August, Beirut radio reported.

A Lebanese Army communique broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon denied PSP claims that Army and Phalangist forces had cooperated in an operation against Druze forces in the Ash-Shuf on 14 August.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche met with Phalangist leaders in Beirut "over the weekend" in an attempt to make the Phalangist and government leaders work out an agreement with the Druze in the Ash-Shuf, according to Arab sources cited by the Israeli paper *Davar*.

In Beirut, Lebanese Army forces tightened security measures, the Voice of lebanon stated. The IDF moved tanks and armored personnel carriers into West Beirut and erected a roadblock, Jerusalem radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Plo Affairs

The PLO conciliation committee arrived in Damascus where the 15 members met with PNC speaker, Khalid al-Fahum, according to Radio Monte Carlo and QNA. The meeting reviewed the Fatah dispute and the Syrian-PLO rift, QNA added.

In the Al-Biqa' valley, Fatah loyalists and dissidents clashed in a "violent" battle that lasted about 3 hours, Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios announced.

At a news conference in Tripoli reported by JANA, dissident leader Colonel Nimr Salih maintained that his movement has the "full backing" of the different PLO factions and the Palestinian people. 'Arafat and "all those who adopted the wrong political direction" in Fatah are loyal to Jordan, not to the Palestinian people, he asserted.

Meanwhile, a Fatah spokesman in Damascus cited by QNA denied reports on contacts between the PLO, especially the Fatah leadership, and the United States.

West Bank

Leaders of the West bank village leagues have drafted their own Palestinian national covenant which calls for the recognition of Israel within recognized boundaries and adopts UN Security Council resolutions and the Camp David agreements as a basis for future negotiations, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. The paper added that the covenant is intended to challenge the PLO's own covenant. Among its 35 clauses, the covenant calls for direct negotiations with Israel, general elections in the West Bank and Gaza, and especially close ties with Jordan. Amman radio's press review cited *Ar-Ra'y* condemning the covenant as "suspect." The newspaper urged support for the PLO and the aborting of the village leagues' "conspiracy."

Reporting on moves to appoint Arab mayors to replace Israeli officials in the West Bank, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* wrote that Jordan has given its followers the go-ahead to act toward bringing round the population in the territories to asking King Husayn to represent them in talks with Israel. To this end, the newspaper reported, Israel will seek to appoint mayors who are also acceptable to Jordan.

Israel

The Cabinet has decided to cut the Defense Ministry budget by 15 billion shekels over the next 2 years, Jerusalem radio reported. The report added that these cuts will affect the IDF's construction budget and conditions of service for regular army soldiers. Interviewed on Jerusalem television, opposition leader Shim'on

Peres criticized the defense cuts and called on the government to cut expenditure in Judaea and Samaria and in Lebanon.

Libya-Chad

French paratroopers — under orders to defend themselves if attacked — took up positions in eastern and northern chad, Paris radio announced. At Brazzaville celebrations to mark the Congolese revolution anniversary, Libyan UN envoy 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki told Paris radio that the Chad crisis must be resolved through political means. The Libyan envoy also held "lively talks" on Chad with the French delegate to the celebrations, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

At a 14 August meeting between Iranian Ground Forces Commander Colonel 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, reported by IRNA, Montazeri told Sayyad-Shirazi that while the views of the lower ranks should be heard, decisions should be carried out conscientiously and "conforming with military discipline." A clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio report on the same meeting said Montazeri stressed the need to preserve discipline in the army. The radio said these remarks were made in the wake of commanders having to deal with "anarchy" in the Armed Forces, interference by the guards, and disobedience by soldiers and officers.

The Islamic Revolution of Iraq Supreme Assembly (SAIRI) has established its first military base at Hajj 'Umran in northeastern Iraq, IRNA reported. Muslim combatants of Iraq have been urged to report to the base, the report added. In a message to Khomeyni, the SAIRI expressed its determination to continue the struggle against the Iraqi regime.

Iraqi military reservists born in 1949 have been demobilized, INA reported and added that this "proves the Iraqi forces' ability to defend Iraqi territory."

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Karmal Returns From 'Medical Checks' in Moscow

LD151501 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari to Europe 1245 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Kabul, 15 Aug (BAKHTAR) — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, returned to Kabul this evening.

Heading a high-ranking DRA party and state delegation, Babrak Karmal paid an official friendly visit to the People's Republic of Mongolia on 7 July at the invitation of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Great Hural. At the end of his official friendly visit he visited Moscow, capital of the USSR, for a series of medical checks.

BAKHTAR reports that the aircraft carrying Babrak Karmal touched down in Kabul International Airport at around 1700. By the aircraft, Babrak Karmal was warmly welcomed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; and the charges of the USSR and Mongolian embassies in Kabul.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From Soviet Studies

LD151900 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi', member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and deputy prime minister of the DRA, returned today to Kabul after completing higher education in the Soviet Union.

'Counterrevolutionaries Crushed' in Qonduz

GF151400 Kabul in English to South Asia 1000 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] A revolutionary defense group has recently crushed a counterrevolutionary band in the village of (Basuz) in the Hazrat-e Emam County of Qonduz Province.

A source in the county said that several (?kinds) of arms together with 10,000 shells have been seized from the band.

Posters Urge Soviet Withdrawal, Karmal Resignation

GF151055 Karachi Jasarat in Urdu 11 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] London, (AAP) The Khalq faction of the ruling communist party in Afghanistan, in posters distributed in Qandahar, second largest city in Afghanistan, nas called for the resignation of Babrak Karmal and the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

This action has created a new wave of tension between the Khalq and Parcham factions of the communist party in Afghanistan.

The AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reports from Qandahar that the posters have been seen in major localities in Qandahar City and also have been distributed by hand. The demands of the Khalq faction of the party are listed in posters printed in both Pashto and Persian. These are posted even on the Herat Gate, the general post office, the government-run luxury hotel, Kamdesh, and the Shikarpur Shah bazaar localities. The handbills were also thrown in streets, houses, and shops. In some places, these posters were openly distributed. It has been reported that Khalq party members and officials distributed the posters during the night curfew hours. This is the first time that the Khalq faction of the communist ruling party in Afghanistan has openly demanded the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

SPA Says Conscripts Desert, Surrender to Mujahidin

LD112117 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 11, SPA — Nearly 10 Afghan conscripts have deserted the government forces and returned to their homes surrendering to the mujahideen who attacked their post in the Baghlan industrial area, the London-based AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported today.

The agency said the mujahideen attacked the post killing one officer and one soldier.

In another dispatch, the agency said nearly 192 Soviet-Afghan government troops were killed and 36 tanks destroyed by the mujahideen during a sweep operation launched by communists in Lowgar Valley, south of Kabul in July.

Prime Minister Addresses Nation on Independence Day

BK151201 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0204 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Speech by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at 15 August Independence Day ceremony at Red Fort in Delhi — live in Hindi]

[Excerpts] Brothers, sisters, and dear children: An anniversary, whether it is of an individual or a nation, is an auspicious and happy occasion which we observe whether we attend it or stay at home. On earlier occasions, only All-India Radio relayed the voice from here to our states. Last year, with the help of doordarsan [television] the events here were telecast to a few big cities. Today it will also be telecast to many smaller towns and will mark the beginning of a program to provide tv coverage to 70 percent of the country.

The progress we have achieved has been witnessed by everyone. This does not mean we have accomplished our task, fulfilled all our dreams, or improved ourselves in the true sense of the term. However, this certainly indicates that we have progressed on the path shown by our great leaders, and, even in the face of a good many difficulties and impediments, as well as some setbacks, we have continued to march forward, and, perhaps, most of our hardships today are the results of setbacks we have already faced. However, the nation, which was enslaved, miserably poor, frightened, and suppressed, can today stand up raising its head aloft.

You will find a great many achievements if you happen to look at the strides made only this year. Take, for example, our achievement — major or minor, whatever you may call it — in the field of electricity. Earlier, only 300 cities had electricity, and it was practically nonexistent in villages. Today, electricity is available to 300,000 villages, let alone the cities where it already existed. This is simply a minor example, but it speaks of everything.

Regarding major achievements, I have already mentioned television. You have seen for yourselves how our satellite was launched and how we can utilize this for the benefit of our farmers and others. Our engineers, with total Indian expertise and knowhow, have installed a powerplant at Kalpakkam near Madras. Another satellite is due to be launched within 2 months. These are great works, which have links with your life, with the lives of farmers and workers, with the studies of the students, and with the daily lives of wives.

This year, since I met you here the last time, the Asian Games have taken place. It was a youth activity. It was followed by the nonaligned conference, which provided an opportunity for the world to witness India's progress and its capacity to work.

When, on today's occasion, we are trying to see our achievements and success, we must also look at our weaknesses. What things have kept us behind? What obstacles have stepped in our way and blocked our swift progress? We find that only unity and discipline can bring success, and we learned this lesson during our freedom struggle. We find today that, knowingly or unknowingly, there are some people, some elements, who, in the name of caste, harm the society and who, in the name of religion, hurt religion itself and, in the name of provincialism, harm the country. These are our weaknesses. Another weakness is to lose one's courage and self-confidence. These things left India lagging behind and reduced its moral strength.

We find that there is agitation in many parts of the country. Demands by the people are very natural in a democracy. We are always prepared to hold dialogue with the people and meet their appropriate demands. However, we should also see to it at all times that fulfilling one's demands should not harm someone else or weaken someone else. That is why we must hold talks with everyone on these demands and protect everyone's interests. If everyone cannot be made fully satisfied, efforts should at least be made to reduce their dissatisfaction.

We have seen from experience that regardless of whether leaders of these agitations favor violence, it occurs. We do not know who resorts to violence, but the persons are punished when they are identified. Sometimes these people are not revealed, and this causes harm to the nation because it stops development work. The agitation, which takes place in the name of development, also stops development work.

There are a few problems that remain with us. There is the Assam problem, about which very strange propaganda exists. There is some truth to the talk that outside people have come in. We intend to stop this infiltration and see that those who have come in unlawfully are identified and some other arrangements made for them. This I am not saying today, I have put this forward to the people there right from the beginning of the negotiations. However, they said that either you accept everything or we will not allow you to do what you want. So, the work that could have been done during all these years could not be accomplished. Now, they have said all right, you start, and what we had said earlier is starting now.

Another strange story is being heard about this. The attacks carried out there, which resulted in the loss of many lives — our Muslim brothers and sisters lost their lives and their villages were burnt; even Hindus, tribals, harijans, workers, people from Bihar settled there and laborers and workers from Uttar Pradesh were also attacked — have been condemned by me and I have sympthasized with these people. However, propaganda is being carried out that we were involved in these killings. If you go to these people, they will tell you categorically who has been engaged in protecting them, who has been saving them. This is a fact, though lack in security caused all these killings and this too is our responsibility. However, the propaganda is being carried out as if we had a hand in it, and the people who are propagating this themselves delivered speeches that created an atmosphere that provoked the people and generated a climate of hatred and violence.

Today there is the Punjab situation. I would not like to go into details as it has been mentioned many times. We have endeavored to ensure that every state, every nationality,and every region in the country gets justice and that the means and resources of the entire country are shared by all. All the demands I could have fulfilled on my part had been conceded by me right from the beginning. However, will it do justice to other states if I make a decision on other demands which concern them and later no

agreement could be reached with them? One thing I would mention is that I have been told that I am deliberating delaying the decision. If any state or nationality is weakened, is the central government strengthened or weakened? Our strength depends on the strength of our states. What is the meaning of the center? It is not only the Delhi city, the Delhi secretariat or the prime minister's office, it is the place which keeps all the people united. The center is responsible for the country's security and providing justice to every section of society so that powerful people, states, or anybody else do not get more than others. However, our real strength lies in states. When there is a scarcity of resources, pressure on us increases; all ministries' funds are reduced, and, likewise, allocations for all states are also reduced. This does not make us happy, but we are compelled. If there is a good monsoon, the picture suddenly changes for the good. We can move forward with greater speed if there are no droughts, floods, or agitations that consume so much funds.

What I was telling you about the Punjab situation is that this problem has been with me for about 2 years. I would like to recall that the same people who are today agitating or raising demands were in power in Punjab for 3 years before my government came to power in 1980 and at the same time their two ministers were in the central government. During the same 3 years, their colleagues were in power in their neighboring states as well. They had a chance for a full 3 years to get together and fulfill their demands and settle their issues. These voices were not raised then. Why were these problems not resolved at that time? This small question I would like to ask them and all of you. Were they not at fault that when they had this opportunity they did not use it? They did not because, even at that time, they could not have got what they needed. Now, all the burden is being put on us when we came to power. We are ready if others who are concerned with these problems could sit with them and reach an accord.

Other, similar voices have been raised from within the country which we feel can threaten the country's strength and unity.

The country faces many dangers. There are internal weaknesses as well as external threats. I do not want to frighten you and I know that you cannot be frightened. However, it is the duty of all of us to recognize the situation and identify the crisis to be fully prepared to meet it. Imperialism of today is not like before. Today, it does not come to the country with its armed forces. Today, it puts lots of hidden pressures — economic, political, and other types — which are not less dangerous than the armed forces because ordinary people cannot identify them. In many instances we have seen that countries gaining independence have come under shadows. India does not want this.

India's path is clear: to achieve self-sufficiency through democracy, socialism, and nonalignment. Some tell us that we are tilting toward this side, others say we are tilting toward that side. All our decisions are guided by the interests of India and world peace. Our friendship with some may be greater than with others, but friendship or differences never stand in our way of decisionmaking. Our decisions are true and our successes until now are due to the fact that the people know that ours is an idealistic state.

There is a danger lurking at our borders also. Though the threat is not direct, talk of war is taking place all over the world. India is a peace-loving country; that is why we made a big contribution toward founding the Nonaligned Movement. We especially want friendship with our neighbors.

Recently, some incidents took place. I want to reiterate that we do not want to interfere in any other country. They have to control their own internal problems. However, if there is wide-scale violence, killing, and looting, we have to condemn it, which we have always done.

India has enjoyed very close relations with one of our neighbors, Sri Lanka. Events there have also affected Indian citizens as well. That is why we have special concern about there, not with an idea of interference but for the maintenance of friendship and relations. We do not want anyone to be harmed, but because the attacks have taken place against our people — our citizens and people of Indian origin — we have to express sympathy and special concern for the victims of this violence. So, we have to move sensibly, grasping the situation. One step taken in the heat of passion results in far-reaching consequences, and then it is difficult to control the situation.

It has been God's mercy that so far we have adopted the path of patience on international matters. We have succeeded because we moved forward sensibly with a spirit of understanding. We should not do anything that prevents what is desired from being achieved or that would cause harm to those whom we want to help. Indians live in many countries. Some of them have taken their citizenship and some are still Indian citizens. We have to pay attention to all of them, not with an India of interference but on humanitarian grounds.

One word I would like say for our brave soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces: They serve the people even in peacetime, whether during floods or any other calamity with the same courage and dedication with which they defend the country's frontiers. They deserve our congratulations.

National Day Incidents in Kashmir, Assam Cited

BK151621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Speaking on the Independence Day functions in various states, the governors and chief ministers called upon the people to march ahead with determination and work for building a strong and prosperous nation.

In Srinagar, a parade and a cultural program were held where Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah took the salute. He stressed the need for building a strong nation to face both internal and external challenges. Some enthusiastic spectators of a contingent burst a cracker, which injured five persons. The parade was not disturbed.

In Assam, people took part in the celebrations in large numbers despite a call by the Assam agitationists to boycott the official

function. Hoisting the national flag at Gauhati, the chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, said his government is determined to detect and deport foreign nationals. The process is to begin next month.

An attempt to disrupt a function has been reported from Nowgong where a time bomb exploded, killing a girl and injuring two.

Sri Lanka's TULF Leader Holds Talks 15 August

BK151251 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] The visiting leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front and opposition leader in the Sri Lanka Parliament, Mr Amirthalingam, continued talks with the Indian leaders in New Delhi today. He called on the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, this morning and had discussions with him for an hour. Later, he had a 45-minute meeting with the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman.

Gandhi Briefed on Punjab Events; Akali Dal Meets

BK141602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. He is understood to have discussed the political situation in the state. He apprised her of the steps taken by his government to curb the activities of the extremists.

The Akali Dal high command had a 2-hour meeting in Amritsar this morning. The decisions taken at the meeting are to be announced tomorrow after discussions with the district presidents of the party.

Punjab Chief Minister Repeats Appeal To End Agitation

BK160415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, has again appealed to the Akali leaders to give up their agitation. In a broadcast over Jullundur station of All-India Radio last night on the occasion of the Independence Day, he described the methods adopted by the agitation leaders as undemocratic. The chief minister pointed out that the agitation is harming the developmental activities in the state. Extremist elements and some foreign forces are taking advantage of the situation. Mr Darbara Singh warned the people against the evil designs of these forces. The chief minister announced that the first unit of the Mukerian hydroelectric project will be commissioned on Gandhi Hayanti [Mahatma Gandhi's birthday]. He also said 120 crore rupees have been given as interest-free loans to poor people in the state to help them set up their own business.

'Suspected Extremist' Kills Policeman in Punjab

BK160303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] A subinspector of police was killed and his gunman injured when an unidentified person fired at them at Muktsar in Punjab yesterday afternoon. The subinspector and the gunman were going on a motor cycle when they were fired at. The assailant, suspected to be an extremist, escaped on a motorcycle after the incident.

Ziaul Haq Emphasizes 'Orderly Transfer of Power'

BK151349 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said the program he has announced in the Majlis-i-Shoora is intended to elect the representatives of the people and to ensure a peaceful and orderly transfer of power from military to civil government.

This he said while replying to questions from newsmen at a reception held for them at the presidency in Rawalpindi today. He said one of the items of the program is the normalization of the political process in the country. He said we are entering the second elections of the local body which is the grassroots in the democratic process. We have set in motion a process which has generated a democratic environment of which we are proud. The previous so-called elected regimes would be ashamed of their records if they see our records, he added.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he has announced a few simple amendments that would be required in the 1973 Constitution. These amendments will bring about a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister and bring the Constitution in conformity with the Islamic principles.

Replying to a question whether the amendments will make the 1973 Constitution presidential or parliamentary, the president said it will be both in spirit. He said we intend to establish the Islamic system of shoora [consultation].

Asked whether the elections to the provincial and national assemblies will be held on party or nonparty basis, he said they have received contradictory recommendations from the Council of Islamic Ideology, the special committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora, and the inquiry commission, apart from many other unannounced agencies. Some are in favor of elections on party basis while others are for nonparty elections. What we should have in Pakistan must be according to our peculiar circumstances. He said since the first major elections after the local bodies are a little far away, we have not taken a firm decision on the matter yet.

The president told a questioner that the modality of the amendments to the Constitution will be looked into by the next assembly which he was sure will approve them. If they do not, he said, they can reject them.

About the proposed national security council, the president said it will be a body to assist the government and the president in bringing stability to the country.

The president emphasized that he has no poliical ambition. His ambition in life has been and will continue to be to bring about the process of Islamization in the country and there will be no return from that process. He said he believed that he enjoyed the confidence of the people and there was no need to put it to test, as a reality was not always put to test. He said the 18 months he had given were needed to complete the program. He said the steps taken by him would yield positive results. Let the people's representatives come and govern the country, he remarked.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan is a free and an Islamic country. If there are certain individuals or groups who have their own point of view, they have full freedom to express it. But he gave the warning that if anyone tries to disturb the law and order and peace of the country, then we have different treatment. In reply to a question, the president said summary military courts will continue to function until martial law has been lifted.

Police Disperse 'Unlawful Assembly' 15 August

BK151728 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration said at about 1500 this afternoon, some members and supporters of the defunct political parties reached the Regal Chowk and formed an unlawful assembly. They raised slogans and pelted stones on law enforcing agencies, as a result of which one constable got injured. However, the police dispersed the crowd and arrested 14 persons after registering cases under relevant martial law regulation and order.

Delhi Cites Continued Violence, Roundup in Sind

BK160317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] In Pakistan, thousands of people demonstrated at many places in the Sind Province yesterday in protest against the military rule. There are also reports of continued violence from several parts of the province. Two opposition leaders have been detained. Officials say about 500 people have been arrested in Sind since Sunday. More arrests have been reported from Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta.

Pakhtoon Leader Says Meeting To Set Future Program

BK120906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] The Pakhtoon leader, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, has regretted that despite the sacrifices made by the Pakhtoons for the independence of Pakistan, their loyalty is being questioned. Talking to newsmen at Peshawar, he said the attitude of the present ruler in Pakistan is compelling Pakhtoons to review their stand. A big meeting of Pakhtoons is being called to chalk out a future program, he said.

President Visits Air Force Headquarters 13 August

BK131756 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, visited the Air Headquarters in Rawalpindi today. Addressing senior officers, he said Pakistan sincerely desires peace with all its neighbors. He mentioned the offer of a no-war pact by Pakistan to India. The proposal was being pursued, but the president said

what Pakistan (?sought) was peace with honor, as only peace based on sovereign equality of all countries and guaranteeing the dignity and honor of all nations is durable and meaningful. Such a peace is not based on weakness but on the capability of the nations concerned to safeguard their territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The president said that the defense forces must continue to play a part in maintaining Pakistan's capability for effective defense. Their readiness is the best guarantee of peace. He said it was a matter of satisfaction that the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] was coming upto the expectations of the nation. The PAF, which has enviable traditions of professional excellence and devotion to duty, must continue to improve its capability as well as efficiency. The PAF was making good use of what was available and striving side by side with the Army and the Navy to make the country's defense impregnable. The president asked the airmen to persevere with their efforts.

Referring to the move of the Air Headquarters to Rawalpindi, the president said it had been done in the interest of better coordination among the three services. The president said he was happy to note that the Air Force looks after its personnel well and was also taking good care of its retired officers and men.

Earlier, welcoming the president, Air Chief Martial Mohammad Anwar Shamim thanked the government for its support to the PAF. He assured the president that the airmen would spare no efforts to build the PAF into one of the most efficient air forces of its size. He also apprised the president of the PAF welfare program for its personnel. The president's visit began with a briefing by the deputy chief of Air Staff.

Yaqub Khan Describes Talks With Bangladesh Leaders
BK131724 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said his talks with the Bangladesh president reaffirmed the desire of the two countries for the closest possible mutual cooperation in all fields. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport on his return from Dhaka this afternoon after a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh. He expressed confidence that frequent contacts between the two countries would help in promoting and strengthening such cooperation.

About his talks with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr Shamsud Doha, Yaqub Khan said their talks were marked by a genuine desire to explain and understand the policies of both countries. Our views on most international issues are identical. The two countries are fully aware that in order to establish a new international political and economic order, they will have to work together in close cooperation with other nations of the world, he added.

Weinberger's 30 September Visit Announced
BK091541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger will visit Pakistan from the 30th of next month. His visit will last until 2 October.

BANGLADESH

Ershad on Holding General, Local Elections

BK150645 Dhaka BSS in English 0626 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 15 BSS — Lt. General H.M. Ershad, president of the Bangladesh Council of Ministers, has reiterated that the country's general elections will be held in March, 1985.

Addressing a public meeting at the port city of Chittagong on Sunday, General Ershad said that the process of democratisation will begin from December 27 with the local bodies elections.

He said the polls will be conducted under the suspended constitution which will be revived at the appropriate time and assured that the process of democratisation being started at the grassroots level will be allowed to [go] on uninterrupted.

Gen Ershad also called upon the people to prepare themselves for the coming local bodies elections and asked them to choose honest and dedicated men who could protect their interests and provide correct leadership.

Earlier, Gen Ershad inaugurated a high court bench of the Supreme Court at the port city emphasising the government's concern for ensuring the rule of law and making justice easily available to the people.

SRI LANKA

Spokesman Discloses 2 Incidents of Violence in Jaffna

BK160307 Colombo Domestic Service in in English 1545 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Briefing newsmen today, Secretary of State Douglas Liyanage said that two incidents of violence were reported in Jaffna during the past few days. Apart from this, the situation there and everywhere else was normal. On Thursday, the 11th, Mr. A. G. Raja Sooria, a businessman, and his son were shot dead at their patrol filling station. Posters that appeared subsequently stated that Mr Raja Sooria was a traitor, [word indistinct] that the murders were politically motivated.

Another killing took place yesterday, Sunday the 14th, at Tinnavely. Oberoi Thevan, a hardcore leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army, was shot dead by two men who traveled on a motor cycle. His body was carried to his parents' home and later cremated by an unidentified group. No one has as yet claimed responsibility for this killing.

Meanwhile, Mr Liyanage added that the government agent in Jaffna is making all arrangements for the handling of displaced persons who had arrived there. Transit camps have been set up at Kankesanturai for arrival by ship and at (Tripadi) for arrivals by bus and train; 20,000 people who had gone back to Jaffna have settled down temporarily with friends and relatives. About 300 people had to be accommodated in temporary camps. Dry rations are being provided for these families while tents provided by U.S. aid has helped to solve the accommodation problem. The Army had vacated two camps to accommodate new arrivals. Substantial supplies of food and medicine are being dispatched to affected areas, particularly to Jaffna by trains. Tents have also been supplied to the plantation areas.

The secretary disclosed that there were still about 13,000 misplaced persons in four camps in Colombo.

Referring to the tourist industry, Mr Liyanage said that over the last three times tourist arrivals on scheduled flights had amounted to nearly 1,000. This was indeed a hopeful sign. In August last year, however, about 33,000 tourists had arrived in Sri Lanka on both charter and regular flights.

AFP Report

BK151014 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 15 Aug 83

[By Neville de Silva; AFP prefaces item with notation: "This dispatch was subject to censorship."]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 15 (AFP) — The government today disclosed two more politically motivated slayings in the northern Tamil bastion of Jaffna as sources said that top Tamil leader Appapillai Amrithalingam was likely to extend his discussions in India on the Sri Lankan situation.

Oberoi Thevan, described by the government as a "hardcore leader" of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army (TELA) was shot dead yesterday at Tinnavely in Jaffna District by two killers riding a motorbike, a government spokesman said.

Mr Thevan had reportedly taken over the leadership of the TELA following the murder in Colombo's Welikade jail of the organisation's former leader, Selvaraj Yogachandran, in a massacre on July 26. Fellow prisoners killed a total of 52 Tamil detainees on July 25 and 26 in the Welikade prison.

In the first of the new killings, a politican of Tamil origin, A.G. Raja Sooria, and his son were gunned down in front of the family's filling station in Jaffna on Thursday, the government spokesman said. Mr Soria had been labelled a "traitor" after he stood for the ruling United National Party in municipal elections in Jaffna in May in which the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) scored a landslide victory, sources said.

The leader of the TULF, Mr Amrithalingam, has boosted hopes for a dialogue between the Tamils and the majority Sinhalas with remarks during a visit to New Delhi. He said yesterday that the efforts of Indian Premier Indira Gandhi would help the Sri Lankan Tamils to "resume negotiations" with the Colombo government.

The TULF chief flew to India Saturday hours after Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene's special envoy returned from talks in New Delhi. Sources close to the TULF leader told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr Amrtihalingham was likely to extend his stay. "It is possible that Mr Amirthalingam will be in India for two weeks," the source said.

The government has said that the TULF must abandon its separatist approach if a dialogue is to be initiated, but TULF hardliners oppose any preconditions for discussions: "The pre-requisite of the government that we abandon "Eelam' (the Tamil state) is not acceptable." Jaffna parliamentarian V. Yogeswaran told AFP.

Mr Yogeswaran, considered a hawk in the TULF, said that at the 1977 general election they received a mandate to establish a separate state and a party convention was needed to shed that mandate. Mr Yogeswaran admitted that since Mrs Gandhi has made her statement, the situation has changed and a convention was needed to chart the party's future course. Armed Tamil militants should particpate in any dialogue, he added.

However other TULF sources said that the resolution adopted by a TULF convention held shortly before the riots had asked only that "the government recognise us as a Tamil nation. It does not say separate state. So there is room for negotiation."

The sources said that a meeting of the party's General Council, tentatively planned for August 23, was now unlikely to be held until early September.

Reported Attack on Indian Fishing Boat Denied

BK151607 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] General (Sripala Attagala), chief coordinating authority of the Ministry of Defense, this evening denied reports that the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (?vessel) had opened fire on an Indian fishing boat in Sri Lanka territorial waters.

Results of Council of Experts Session Announced

LD151059 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug 15 (IRNA) — In a statement issued by the committee of chairmen of the Assembly of Experts, the results of the first session of the assembly were announced.

In the first session of the assembly comprising some 11 sittings, the assembly which was a focus for the strengthening of the leadership of the society and disappointment of the enemies of Islam, elected by votes of more than 18 million of the Iranian nation, was able to draw up and ratify the internal statute of the assembly as well as rules for the implementation of the Article 111 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran calling for replacement of anyone in the leadership council who is unable to continue his duties.

The assembly which according to the law has to meet once a year, is for the continuation of the Islamic leadership in the Iranian society and now is the trustee of the political will of Imam Khomeyni, as well as a center for the ulema who are foci for the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

The statement in conclusion called on all bodies as well as the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue their contacts with the assembly and provide it with guidelines.

Khomeyni Receives Prime Minister, Others 15 August

GF151712 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, here today, received Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

During the meeting the prime minister briefed Imam on future plans of the government, current issues of the country, distribution of rice and also issues related to the headquarters of the cultural revolution.

Meanwhile, in another meeting Imam Khomeyni received his representative in Khorasan Province and superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.), Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas Va'ez Tabasi.

During the meeting the hojjat ol-eslam reported on the issues of the Khorasan Province.

In another meeting Imam Khomeyni received a group of families of martyrs from various provincial cities and other groups of people at Jamaran Mosque here today.

In this meeting the head of the Martyrs Foundation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, talked about recent great victories of the Iranian forces and also condemned the Iraqi air and missile attack on the Iranian western cities of Gilan-e Gharb and Andimeshk. He also praised martyrs of these savage attacks. At the end the Imam responded to the enthusiasm of the visitors.

Musavi Interview After Meeting

LD152117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi following his meeting with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni by unidentified Tehran Radio correspondent on 15 August; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, would you be good enough to tell us the topics you discussed today with the imam of the nation and his directives.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During my audience with the imam of the nation I presented him with a report on the country's situation in general and,at the same time, we discussed a few important topics. One of the topics concerned my readiness to introduce new ministers to the Majlis and the qualification requirements which we have adopted in selecting the new ministers. The second topic related to the issue of food distribution at the national level and the efforts currently underway to improve distribution. God willing, we believe the food distribution situation will improve with the assistance of all the hezbollahi nation and the help of all officials concerned who, no doubt, work for the success of the Islamic Revolution's aims and aspirations. God willing, in the near future, we will have fewer problems in this area.

Currently some steps have already been taken to improve the situation. Concerning the distribution of bread, a certain complicated situation had been created. This happened despite the fact that we had suffient wheat; we purchased some from abroad but, because of improper distribution, some concern arose among the people. At the moment, as our martyr-nurturing nation is witnessing, the supply of bread has improved to a large extent. Of course, some efforts are underway to improve its quality as well; they will soon bear fruit.

The second question pertains to rice. For a long time, rice was unavailable but, as I have heard, its distribution started yesterday and, God willing, with the new program, order will be maintained. Everyone will be able to acquire what he needs without difficulty or wasting his time in fooliness.

Similarly, we will try to correct the distribution of other goods. Of course, distribution should follow the natural course of supply and demand and the government, in its supervisory role of this natural process, should intervene only when it is necessary to protect the interest of our oppressed masses committed to the revolution and without placing any imposition on them. Opportunity for corruption and hoarding is to be eliminated. This is what the government is striving to achieve. Government intervention will be limited to what is essential, to the distribution of certain very, very scarce goods. This is the government's general policy and it is determined to carry out this policy. Rice is one of the scarce commodities and, naturally, the government will intervene in its purchase and transport; but the distribution of rice will be through (?cooperatives) under government supervision.

[Correspondent] In connection with the Cabinet's reshuffle and appointment of new ministers, could you please tell us when the

government will introduce the new ministers and perhaps what would be the extent of the reshuffle?

[Musavi] This will not take long; within the next few days, we will introduce some new ministers. Their numbers are few. Naturally, in place of the two ministers who have resigned new ministers will be appointed.

[Correspondent] With regard to regional issues, we are witnessing a U.S. military maneuver in the Persian Gulf and the region. What is the Islamic Republic's analysis of these movements in the region?

[Musavi] Most of these maneuvers are obviously meant to intimidate the region, rather than anything else. Nevertheless, the deprived and oppressed nations of the region must always be ready to counter the multifarious plots hatched by the global arrogants. However, it seems that following the emergence of the Islamic Revolution and the display of the power shown by our nation this fear was neutralized in the region. What I mean is that the fear of these aircraft, maneuvers, and of the special forces has subsided among the region's nations and, in some cases, disappeared. All in all, the trend points to the disappearance of this fear in the world as a whole. Consequently, these maneuvers do not produce the same result for the deprived nations as they do for the oppressive powers and, therefore, cannot succeed as they are meant to.

However, when we look at this maneuver from a different angle we see that America and its reactionary and subservient countries taking part in this maneuver intend, on the one hand, to apply pressure on the countries resisting oppression in the region and, on the other, protect Western interests in the region. They also intend to provide support for Israel, as the offspring of the global arrogant in the region. However, most important of all, they intend to bare their teeth at the Islamic Revolution; this is why they are staging this maneuver.

If we look at the sphere of the maneuver, which extends to the Indian Ocean and the vicinity of the Persian Gulf, we see that it indicates its direction.

In the midst of all these, what we (?say) about the region is that the future of the region must be determined by the region's nations; also, the big powers cannot protect by arms, bayonets, and atomic power the governments dependent on them. Once nations awaken; once nations lose their fear of superpowers and recognize the great power within them, then these maneuvers cannot serve any other purpose but provocation and, at the same time, as an alert for these nations. Having said that, I should add that since we view world events and phenomena within the framework that everything which occurs and takes place will ultimately greatly benefit the enslaved mankind, consequently we do not take this event very seriously; rather, we interpret it as a move that will contribute to the awareness of the region's nations.

I believe that this maneuver can contribute to increasing people's awareness about the values that have emerged as a result of the Islamic Revolution in the region.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communique 1,428

LD151716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,428 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. A fierce exchange of fire continued yesterday in the Val-Farj III operational sector. Yesterday morning, under cover of heavy fire, the enemy's infantry units attempted to occupy heights 310 situated northeast of [name indistinct]. As a result of our forces' heavy artillery fire, the enemy sustained considerable losses and many killed, injured, or taken prisoner and was forced to retreat.

Yesterday in the Val-Fajr II sector, our forces consolidated their positions and opened fire on enemy light and heavy vehicles in the vicinity of Darband; they halted the Saddamist troops' activities.

Yesterday on the southern fronts, our forces opened fire on enemy concentrations and defended their own positions. South of Zubaydat, a number of enemy patrols advanced in an attempt to penetrate our forces' positions, but our forces opened fire on them, wounding a number of Iraqi troops and causing the rest to flee.

On one of the southern fronts, our combatants' heavy weapons fire killed 12 Saddamist troops and destroyed a number of enemy foxholes and bunkers.

At 1420 yesterday, enemy aircraft bombed a village in the vicinity of Gilan-e-Gharb, injuring 11 of our civilian compatriots.

Yesterday the city of Abadan also came under sporadic fire, which damaged one medical center and a house.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Minister Discusses Tactics, Heavy Arms for IRGC

LD131431 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug 13, IRNA — Minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rafiqdust, announced here Friday that the new successful tactics employed in the Val Fajr-2 and 3 operations had never been used previously.

Speaking to IRNA, Rafiqdust further commented on his recent meeting with Imam Khomeyni, the IRGC's new project entitled "Response to Imam Khomeyni," equipping of the IRGC with heavy arms, initiative of Iranian youth in the military industries sector, and savage shelling of Gilan-e Gharb by Iraqi forces.

On the project response to Imam Khomeyni's call for the formation of the 20-million-member army in the Islamic Republic the IRGC minister noted that his ministry decided to utilise the three-year-old war experiences in the formation of an organised

well-trained force, every section of which enjoying a military specification.

The project, he added, would further strengthen ties beteen Muslim militant people of Iran and the IRGC and would also enable the country to possess a powerful organised force at times needed.

Referring to equipping the IRGC with heavy arms, Rafiqdust said that the main part of heavy equipment needed by the IRGC had been supplied through the seizure of arms from the Iraqi enemy.

At present, he added, Islamic combatants were satisfied of further arming of the Iraqi regime with modern weapons since they believed that sooner or later they would seize such arms.

Rafiqdust said that IRGC members by receiving short-term trainings, were able to use advanced Iraqi armaments seized from the enemy, forming together with their army brethren, a powerful military collection to repel aggression.

Rejecting any reliance on foreigners in military field, the IRGC minister said that activities of Iranians in military industries during the past three years proved that they were able to manufacture modern weapons, in accordance with military needs of the country, in future.

Commenting on the savage shelling of Gilan-e Gharb on Wednesday, Rafiqdust stressed that the brutality of Saddam Husayn's criminal act showed, as before, the vastness of victories of the Islamic Republic.

The bombing which left some 57 martyrs and 575 injured, was an approval of rightfulness of the people of Iran vis-a-vis the superpowers and their lackey agents, he said.

He emphasised that this crime added another black page to the doomed regime of Saddam Husayn, his Eastern and Western supporters and reactionary rulers in the region.

Rafiqdust called on the nation to further give priority to the issue of war and did not allow economic plots, instigated by the U.S. and its criminal lackeys, to overshadow it.

Guards, Ground Forces Commanders on Operations

LD151131 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15 IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Reza'i, said here Sunday night that the transfer of North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) forces to the Middle East was an indication of the fact that there was a revolutionary centre in this part of the world called Iran.

Taking part in a TV interview, together with the commander of the Ground Forces, Col. Sayyad-Shirazi, the IRGC commander noted that although a distance of an ocean existed between Iran and the United States, hindering the latter to embark on a military measure against the former, yet the U.S. was paving the way to confront future Islamic revolutions in the Middle East especially in Arab states possessing rich oil resources.

He said that during Val-Fajr III operations although more than 10 artillery batallions of the Iraq enemy, equipped with over 150 artillery pieces, and 13 armoured, mechanized and infantry brigades were fighting with the Islamic combatants, the Iraqi regime finally confessed to its defeat.

Announcing preparedness of forces of Islam to continue the operation, Reza'i said that liberated areas were in full control of Iranian combatants in spite of vicious attempts of the Iraqi enemy, adding that over 700 enemy forces [were] captured in Val-Fajr II and III operations.

He stressed that so far all the objectives of Val-Fajr operations had been achieved, mainly liberation of border areas and strategic heights as well as showing the military strength of forces of Islam to disappoint foreign supporters of the Iraqi regime, and disconnection of counterrevolutionaries with Iraq.

Reza'i noted that the four strategic Tamarchin, Azade-e, Rayat and Darband heights had been liberated and that the fifth, Chuman Mostafa, was at present within the range of fire of the Islamic combatants.

Referring to the ammunition seized from the Iraqi enemy in Val-Fajr II, the IRGC commander pointed to a radar through which Iraqi forces could find direction of artillery and mortar (?fire of) the Islamic combatants and fire their artillery through the same direction.

Commenting on the liberation of strategic city of Mehran, in west of Iran, Reza'i said that two series of operations were conducted in north and south of the city. He added that Islamic combatants therefore decided to liberate heights overlooking Mehran and remove the enemy's direct observation on the city, whch was successfully performed. Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn who had come to the area to personally lead the operation, stationed his forces in Badre area and continued the war from there, the IRGC commander said. Forces of Islam, he added, liberated northern heights and in the south advanced for 3 to 4 kms, and were stationed in [words indistinct] of the heights there. Iraqis, enjoying the support of their 12th Division, started a series of counhyphenationteroffensives, stabilising forces all through Qasr-e Shirin border. But Iraqi forces reached the area at a time when Islamic combatants had been fully stabilised there, therefore Iraqi counterattacks would be repelled one by one, Reza'i stressed. Finally, of the Iraqi forces stationed in Dasht-e Badre, opposite of Mehran, 90 percent of a battalion was destroyed and a few number of injured could flee. The Iraqi army, which believed could have saved Saddam's prestige by embarking in such counteroffensives, after the liberation of Kaleqandi heights by the Iranian forces, announced that they had honourably turned the area but withdrew since they were seeking for the establishment of peace with the Islamic Republic.

Commander of Ground Forces Col. 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi stressed here Sunday that Val-Fajr operations would be the last stage of the three-year-old Iraqi imposed war against Iran.

He noted that the Iraqi regime was warring with the Islamic Republic in a front of over 1,300 kms long, adding that the enemy first crossed the Iranian border without facing any resistance and occupied more than 10,711 sq. kms of the Islamic territory, destroying many cities, leaving numerous martyrs and making over two million people homeless.

Emphasising that by its rapid deployment force the U.S. intended to show that it was powerful enough to safeguard its interests, Col. Sayyad-Shirazi noted that such maneuvers were mere devilish plots and that the Islamic Republic, upon Almighty God's instructions, was responsible to be prepared to confront any conspiracy against the Islamic revolution.

He said that when prepared, Islamic combatants would perform a maneuver, adding that the world could then evaluate it and compare it with that of evil forces carried out just to frighten oppressed people in the region.

Commenting on the liberation of Hajj 'Umran Garrison, Col. Sayyad-Shirazi said that Saddam Husayn who was commanding Iraq's 91st Brigade, instructed the recapture of the garrison and Darband heights. He brought to the area 50 helicopters, the commanders of 4th Corps, 98th Brigade, and 31st and 95th special brigades to direct the helicopters' operations.

Suddenly, 32 choppers, including eight gunships, in a strike operation flew over the area, 13 of which were downed by the fire of the Islamic combatants, weakening the morale of the Iraqi enemy. In this operation Iraqi forces could capture the peak of heights No. 2,519 which was liberated after a while with Iranian forces stationing there.

He emphasized that operations in Hajj 'Umran provided a good opportunity for Muslim Iraqi mujahideen and Muslim Kurdish Peshmergas to fight along side with the Islamic combatants, to witness bravery of forces of Islam as well as playing their role.

Hoping that the roots of counterrevolution would soon be eradicated, Col. Sayyad-Shirazi stressed that the operation removed any doubt throughout the world that the Islamic Republic had no control over west Azarbayjan and Kordestan Provinces since operations inside Iraqi territory were led from there.

He added that in the operation for the liberation of Gerdmand strategic heights, remained [as received] in the hands of Iraqis only for three days, and Hajj 'Umran garrison where the enemy enjoyed a better position by possessing 60, 81 and 120 mm mortars around heights No. 2,519, the Islamic combatants could acquire an upper hand in less than [word indistinct] hours and by giving only two martyrs and a few number of injured.

Montazeri Meets With Ground Forces Commander

GF151710 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Qom, Aug. 15, IRNA — The commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic army, Colonel 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi, in a meeting with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here Sunday, reported on situation in the warfronts and advance of the Iranian forces.

Ayatollah Montazeri while praising self-sacrifice and courageous fight of the Iranian forces, wished them greater victories in their fight against the Iraqi aggressive forces. He also stressed that the armed forces personnel should be given encouragement, their expertise should be utilised and they should be consulted.

Ayatollah Montazeri further told the Ground Forces commander that a commander should make the best use out of opinions and views of the lower ranks and provide them with opportunity to express their views. However, he added, once a decision is made following consultations, this decision should be carried out conscientiously and conforming with military discipline, he added.

Free Voice of Iran Report

GF151802 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Following the unrest and disobedience among the ranks in the army and the guards of the Khomeyni regime, Sheykh Montazeri in Qom, in a meeting with Ground Forces Commander Sayyad-Shirazi, stressed the necessity of preserving discipline in the army. Mullah Montazeri said consultation between Armed Forces commanders and soldiers or guards is useful and these incidents must not be discouraging. Moreover, it does not mean disobeying the heirarchy in the army.

Observers say Montazeri's statement on obedience to the heirarchy in the army is due to disobedience by the guards and soldiers of their commanders and the intensification of disobedience among the army and guards. The commanders of the army have repeatedly had to deal with the basic elements of anarchy in the Armed Forces, interferences by the guards, and disobedience of soldiers and officers toward their higher rank officers.

Hajj Organization Official Speaks to Pilgrims

GF151716 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA — Imam's representative in the hajj pilgrimage organisation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini, said here today that as the prophet of Islam announced the universal message of Islam during the greater hajj ceremonies in the holy city of Mecca, it became incumbent on all Muslims to voice their resentment, for the world blasphemy, at least once from Mecca.

Speaking to a gathering of ulema who will be taking part in the forthcoming hajj ceremony, he added, that the Saudi Government contending that the hajj ceremonies must be free from political content aimed at imposing on Muslims a policy of compromise towards the U.S. and the Zionist regime and at the same time dissuade them from confronting the infidels. By doing so the Saudi Government, he added, wanted to prevent blessings of the holy Mecca from flowing over to the world.

Referring to the responsibilities of the ulema during the hajj ceremony, in terms of guiding the pilgrims and encountering the propaganda of the Saudi royal court, he emphasised that these ulema should get in touch with ulema from other countries and inform them of realities of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Ministry Official Returns From East Europe Trip

GF151720 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA — The director general of the office for Europe and America of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mohammad Sadr, who has returned from a two-week visit to Hungary, Bulgaria and Albania, said that the trips aimed at the expansion of political relations of Iran with these countries.

He also referred to positive stance of the Eastern bloc countries towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, at time of imposition of economic sanction on Iran by the United States and its allies. He said that the Foreign Ministry held the view that political relations must be in harmony with economic relations.

The Foreign Ministry official further added that during his visits to the three countries he explained the neither East nor West policy of Iran and also presented messages from the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his counterparts from Albania, Hungary and Bulgaria.

The main theme of discussion with officials of these countries, Sadr said, was political, economic and the Iraqi imposed war.

Another issue raised during these visits, Sadr said was opening up of Iranian embassies in the said three countries. Hungary and Bulgaria have ambassadors in Tehran, however, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not yet appointed ambassadors to these countries he added. On the other hand, Albania is almost the first countries which gave official recognition to the Islamic Republic and has condemned the Iraqi Ba'thist regime as the aggressor, Sadr said.

In discussions with the Hungarian, Albanian and Bulgarian officials on the issue of the Iraqi-imposed war, it was explained that the Iranian forces have been trying to put the aggressor in its proper place so that no dictator would dare to attack other countries. This stance of Iran, he said, was shared with the officials of these countries.

Reportage on Velayati Visit to PDRY

For Aden and Tehran reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the PDRY, including an IRNA report on the signing of a letter of understanding on bilateral relations, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 15 August Middle East & Africa *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.